

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. - 19. (Canceled)

20. (New) A hand tool, comprising:

a blade having a lower surface defining a plane;

a handle attached to the blade, the handle being curved in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the blade;

the handle including an outer surface defining a portion of a circular arc; and

wherein the handle terminates in a gripping section that intersects and extends beyond the plane of the blade.

21. (New) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein circular arc has a center below the plane of the blade.

22. (New) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the circular arc has a radius on the order of 3 to 4 inches.

23. (New) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the gripping section has a cross-sectional circumference in range from 3.5 to 5 inches.

24. (New) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the gripping section includes a slight taper along its length.

25. (New) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein at least a portion of the gripping portion forms a flattened ellipsis in cross section.

26. (New) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the blade forms a trowel.

27. (New) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the blade forms a cultivator.

28. (New) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the blade forms a weeder.

29. (New) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the blade forms a hoe.

30. (New) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the handle includes a polymeric covering.

31. (New) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein:

the blade defines a primary line of attack; and

the gripping section allows a user to hold the tool in a wrist-neutral position with a users forearm aligned along the line of attack.